



[Leader tip: A fun game is Ken Leslie's "Will it Burn" on DYM; it doesn't directly tie to the lesson, but fire is glorious, and the lesson is about Jesus' glory. Okay, it's a stretch, but the game has videos of stuff burning which I love and I can make the connection for my group and bet you can too: <https://www.downloadyouthministry.com/p/will-it-burn%3F/games-857.html>]

Note: For those using the included PowerPoint presentation, the manuscript progression to each slide is denoted with [Slide #].

[Slide 1] Have you heard of the artist Banksy? He is an England-based street artist, political activist, and film director who has been active since the 1990s.¹ He has a gift for satire and is famous around the world. Here's the kicker: we don't know who he is. He's anonymous. Banksy is a pseudonym. And his artwork is incredibly valuable; depending on the piece it can be worth tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even in the millions; the most valuable one sold at auction last year for just under 22 million dollars.² For an unknown guy, he's pretty famous. I want to show you a video he posted in 2013. He found someone to run an art stand for him in Central Park selling his art and secretly filmed it all and then posted the video online after.

[Slide 2] Art Sale <https://youtu.be/zX54DlpacNE> (2:40)

This made world news. That's how the people who bought the art found out what they had. The wild thing is that a week later another guy copied all the art, the style of signs, had a giant sign saying, "Fake Banksy," set up shop in the same spot and immediately sold out. He even included certificates asserting the works were fake! There's probably a sermon in that, but I want to get back to the real Banksy. Can you imagine being the woman who negotiated a 50% discount on two paintings for her kids watching the news and having the identity of what she had purchased being revealed in full? It had to be shocking! I would be in disbelief! Overwhelmed!

Which brings us to Mark 9. People have a lot of opinions on who Jesus was and is; a great teacher, a rebel, a disruptor, a social justice warrior, a

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banksy>

² <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1269918/most-expensive-banksy-auction-sales-worldwide/>

conservative, a liberal ... but those are just pieces; who is He really? Today, we'll look at a point in the Gospel of Mark where Jesus went all in to reveal who He is.

[Slide 3] *Mark 9:1 (NLT)*¹ *Jesus went on to say,*

Those first five words should jump out at us. Why? Because they mean that even though this is another chapter in the book, what we are reading is connected to the previous verses. In Mark 8, Jesus asked a critical question, "Who do people say I am?" And while the people were getting it wrong, in a moment of profound insight, [Slide 4] Peter said, "You are the Messiah." (Mark 8:27-29). This is the real Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus went on to drop some pretty intense revelations: that He would suffer, that He would be killed, and that three days later He would rise from the dead. The disciples just didn't get or understand or believe that last part. How do we know? One big clue is that after Jesus was crucified and buried, they didn't wait at Jesus' tomb like a New Year's Eve countdown party for the big show!

Here's the point, though, with these first five words; Mark made sure the reader would know that what Jesus was about to say would build on what was just read. Got it? Let's go.

[Slide 5] *Mark 9:1 (NLT)*¹ *Jesus went on to say, "I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!"*

In this moment, Jesus made a prediction about something that would happen only a handful of days later.³ Mark wants us to know this because it helps us understand what's happening in the following verses.

[Slide 6] *Mark 9:2-3 (NLT)*² *Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed,³ and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them.*

³ Ben Witherington III, *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2001), Kindle location 3935.

time to do something about it. Write a note on your handout, text a leader, tell the person next to you that you need to talk later, and bring in some help to put Jesus where He belongs in your life.

We spend so much time worrying about the temporary things around us and not nearly enough recognizing Jesus' true identity and the gift that it is to pursue Him and His purposes.

Is Jesus on the throne of your life? Or is He just in one of many shelters in your life? Listen to Him. Take the opportunity to become what God has created you to be!

Let's pray.



- What stands out to you in Mark 9:1-13?
- How would you have reacted if you were present at the transfiguration? Which part would be the most incredible to you? Why?
- How did Peter, James and John know it was Moses and Elijah who appeared?
- Why do you think it was significant that Moses and Elijah appeared?
- Why is it significant that God appeared as a cloud? What was His purpose?
- God tells us to “listen to Him” (v.7). What ways do we listen to Jesus today?
- Have you heard from God before? What did He tell you?
- How can we help each other listen to Jesus?
- Peter devalued Jesus by putting him on the same level as Moses and Elijah. Why is it easy to put other things on the same level as Jesus?
- Is there something in your life that you have put on the same level as Jesus? What do you need to do?
- How can we help each other value Jesus the way God wants us to?

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